

Identity Document Fraud—Children at Risk

- It is extremely difficult for an illegal alien to work or live in the U.S. without legal documents. With a fraudulent social security card and green card purchased from a fraudulent identification document trafficker, an illegal alien can:
 - a. obtain legitimate employment
 - b. establish credit
 - c. borrow money and access the banking system
 - d. obtain government benefits
- The Social Security Administration estimates that 75% of working-age illegal aliens use fraudulent Social Security cards to obtain employment (Illegal, but Not Undocumented, by Ronald Morensen, 2009)
- Government documents and benefits fraud accounted for 38.7% of identity fraud reports to the Federal Trade Commission, FBI and various other federal and local agencies in 2014 (FTC, Consumer Sentinel Network , 2015)
- Sellers of fraudulent identification documents are able to predict social security numbers belonging to infants and children to use for fraudulent identification documents (Child Identity Theft by Richard Power, 2011, citing Predicting Social Security Numbers from Public Data by Alessandro Acquisti and Ralph Gross, 2009)
- Children and infants were targeted with identity fraud 51 times more frequently than adults because fraudulent use of their social security numbers is not susceptible to detection (database scan of 42,232 children under 18 (2009-10) cited in Child Identity Theft by Richard Power, Carnegie Mellon Cylab 2011)
- Fraudulent identity packages sometimes feature unassigned social security numbers that are later assigned to children, resulting in victimization before the child is even born (Illegal, but Not Undocumented, by Ronald Mortensen 2009)
- Hundreds of Utah companies pay wages to individuals using social security numbers that are assigned to children under age 13 who qualify for public assistance (Utah Department of Workforce Services; IRIS database)